

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are submitted for Figures 1, 2,
and 3 as formal drawings.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein.

Formal drawings are submitted for Figures 1, 2 and 3 replacing the originally filed informal drawings. In addition, a substantive change is made in Figure 2 changing reference numeral 16 indicating the rear door to reference numeral 19 consistent with the disclosure on page 10, line 26 and page 15, line 11 of the application as filed. The above change is the only change and is believed not to introduce new matter.

Claims 1-23 were previously pending in the application. Claim 16 is canceled and new claim 24 is added. Therefore, claims 1-15 and 17-24 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-9, 12 and 20-23 were rejected as anticipated by NELVA-PASQUAL et al. 4,785,482. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that the toilet seat is lowered from the stowed position to a use position by gravity. Claim 1 also recites that a cabinet door is closed by gravity.

By way of example, as disclosed on page 12, line 31 through page 13, line 6, chain 12 attached to drum 11 allows

gravity to pull seat carriage 14 down into a lowered position. Door 90 also drops into a closed position by gravity.

Compare the above with the discussion of the prior art on page 1, lines 31-33 wherein injury is possible when moving parts are driven such as when a seat and door are taken down by driven parts, which the present invention attempts to overcome by having both the seat and door being lowered (closed) by gravity.

Similar to the prior art, the NELVA-PASQUAL reference uses endless screws that are driven in rotation to forcibly raise and lower both the seat and door.

By way of example, Figure 3D of NELVA-PASQUAL, reproduced below, shows lead screws 36a, 36b mounted to a tapped sleeve 42a, 42b. Two connections 46a, 46b slide up the sleeves 42a, 42b when lead screws 36a, 36b are rotated. The seat 22 is connected to a support element 54, which in turn is connected to a shaft 48 which moves up and down with connections 46a, 46b.

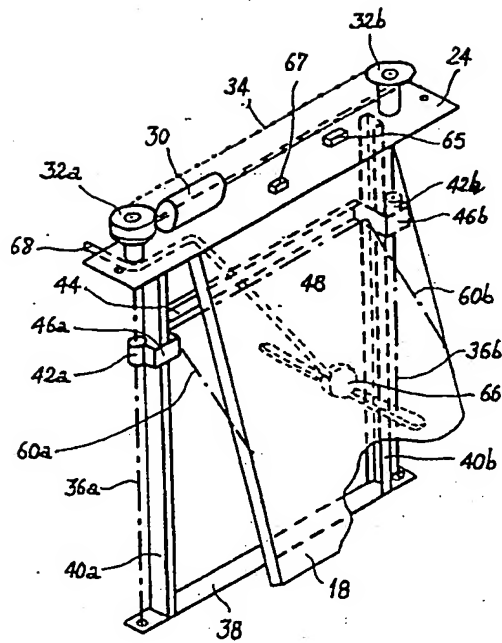


Fig. 3D

Similarly, door 18 is connected by link rods 60a, 60b to connections 46a, 46b and open or close the trapped door 18 as the lead screws 36a, 36b are driven in rotation. See, for example, column 4, line 57 through column 5, line 18 of NELVA-PASQUAL.

Thus, NELVA-PASQUAL teaches a mechanical device that forcibly moves both the seat 22 and the door 18 into each of a raised and a lowered position. NELVA-PASQUAL discloses neither that the toilet seat is lowered from a stowed position to a use position by gravity nor that at least one cabinet door is closed by gravity as recited.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 20 is amended along the lines of claim 1. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 20.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and claims 21-23 depend from claim 20 and further define the invention and thus these claims are believed patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

New claim 24 recites a cabinet door that is vertically slidable in a longitudinal direction of the cabinet between an open position to enable the toilet seat to be received in the cabinet in the stowed position to a closed position to enable a cleaning cycle to begin.

NELVA-PASQUAL discloses a trapped door 18 that rotates about a hinge. NELVA-PASQUAL does not disclose a cabinet door that is vertically slidable in a longitudinal direction of the cabinet as recited. Accordingly, new claim 24 is believed to avoid the rejection over NELVA-PASQUAL.

Since claim 1 was indicated as generic in the requirement for election of species and since claim 1 is still

generic and allowable, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in dark ink.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- formal drawings for Figures 1-3